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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Jeffrey R. Roehm, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Washington Field Division, Donald W. Thompson, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Division, and Andre Parker, Chief, Richmond Police Department, announce the conviction yesterday of Shannon Williams, age 26, of Richmond, for committing three murders on November 6, 1998.

After a three-day bench trial before the Honorable James Spencer, Williams was convicted of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine, two counts of possession of crack with intent to distribute, three counts of murder in furtherance of drug trafficking, and one count of using a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime resulting in death. At sentencing, which is scheduled for January 27, 2003, Shannon Williams faces the possibility of three consecutive life sentences.

In reaching his verdict, Judge Spencer found that from 1995 until 2001, Williams was part of a violent neighborhood street gang known as "M&M," which controlled an open air drug market in the vicinity of Milton Street and Maryland Avenue on the Northside of Richmond. Williams and other members of the gang terrorized the neighborhood in the process of selling drugs to customers who walked up and drove up to the area.

On November 6, 1998, as the victims drove up to buy drugs, Williams spotted them and decided to rob them. When Leslie Holloman exited the car to buy drugs, Williams put a gun in his face and asked for money. When Holloman “brushed” the gun away, Williams shot him through the eye, killing him instantly. Williams next shot the driver, Corey E. Roberts, in the head, killing him instantly. Williams then shot James L. Sargent, Jr., the front seat passenger, through the heart.

Paul L. McNulty stated, “Shannon Williams committed three cold-blooded murders. He killed two of his victims to avoid being caught and punished. Now the weight of the federal government has been brought down on him.”

Assistant United States Attorney David Maguire and Special Assistant United States Attorney/Assistant Commonwealth Attorney George Townsend, IV are prosecuting the case.